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JUDGE PATENT FIRM

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No. : 9/682,627  
Applicant : Masakazu KARITA  
Filed : October 1, 2001  
Tech. Cntr./Art Unit : 3736  
Examiner : Brian Scott Szmal

Confirmation No. 2280

OFFICIAL

Docket No. : 31.001-AG  
Customer No. : 29453

I hereby certify that this  
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fax no. (703) 872-9306  
on June 21, 2004.  
James W. Judge  
Reg. No. 42,701  
Signature *[Signature]*

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Sir,

In response to the Office action of January 21, 2004 reconsideration of the above-identified patent application, amended as follows, is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.